

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The following letters from the Acting Colonial Secretary to the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce have been forwarded to us for publication:

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 7th August, 1894. Sir, In reply to your letter of the 5th instant, I am directed to state for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that His Excellency has telegraphed for instructions in regard to the hostilities between China and Japan, but that none have yet been received.

I am to add that the Chamber will be informed whenever any instructions on the subject are received from the Secretary of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant, (Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, &c., &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 7th August, 1894.

Sir, In reply to your letter of the 1st instant I am directed to state for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that His Excellency is most anxious, in the interests of the trade of the port, to have the proclamation, declaring Hongkong to be a neutral port, issued as soon as possible, but is advised that no such withdrawal can take place at present.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant, (Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, &c., &c.

THE PLAGUE IN HONGKONG.

The Tung Wah branch hospital at the Kennedy-town out-patient depot was expected to be closed on Friday next; but there has been an increase in the number of admissions during the last three days, as shown by the returns published, and as long as these fluctuations continue there is no telling when the place will be able to be closed.

A Chinese "doctor" at the out-patient depot was taken sick with the plague yesterday. There are still a few cases every day from Yau-mei (which does not appear in the Hongkong hospital returns). All the houses there have been thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, and whitewashed by the Yau-mei police, under Sergt. Gillies, who has worked like a Trojan.

It will be seen from the returns given below that the last remaining patients have been discharged from the *Higgins*, Mr. Allen and Mr. Gensberger, who are now in a state of convalescence, having been removed to the Government Civil Hospital.

The following particulars of the Hongkong Hospital for the twenty-four hours to noon today:—

Admissions 10, Discharges 10, Under Treatment 10, Total 30.

* 2 removed to Government Civil Hospital.

TYPHOON IN THE NORTH.

The British steamer *Argyle* left Miji on July 31 about noon for Hongkong, and had at the start a light south-easterly breeze, with some clouds. This weather continued until Aug. 2, when the breeze freshened from the east, and gradually was set in, with barometer falling steadily. A high easterly sea got up, and by 4 p.m. there was a very strong wind with violent squalls and heavy rain, and a tremendous sea from the eastward. The steamer (deep-laden) laboured and strained considerably, and the decks were constantly under water. Heavy seas breaking inboard. At 9.30 p.m. the ship was holed to, until 4 a.m., when the sea moderated and the vessel was again put on her course. The same weather continued until Pih-kishan was sighted, when the wind decreased and became squally, but still there was a heavy swell from the eastward. On the 4th there were moderate to light breezes, with overcast, cloudy weather. On the 5th, light south-easterly wind, with heavy rain squalls. On the 6th, moderate to light breeze, with some squalls, and then with overcast cloudy weather to port. Light S. westerly winds with heavy rain squalls, arriving at 1.45 a.m. on the 8th, and anchored in Lankang Bay until daylight and proceeded to moorings off Kaitai Island.

The British steamer *Editha*, Capt. F. J. Miles, from Kutchinoway Aug. 2, reports:—Encountered moderate easterly winds on the voyage north from Hongkong (July 19th) until the 24th, when typhoon weather was met off Koshiki. Considerable damage was done on deck, the tarpaulins were blown over the ship's side like pieces of paper. On the 25th the *Editha* rescued the crew of a Japanese fishing junk, disabled. On the same day H.M.S. *Undaunted* arrived in Nagasaki with a number of shipwrecked sailors, and disabled native crew were being brought in throughout the whole day. The *Editha* arrived at Kutchinoway on the 28th, just as the sailing ship *Ben Lee*, which had been picked up by a Japanese steamer half a mile off the north-east of Koshiki, was being towed on her beam-ends. The *Editha* left for Hongkong on Aug. 2, and had strong easterly gale with high confused sea; the ship was making terrible weather, and had to be hoisted for twenty hours in lat. 29 deg. N., long. 125 deg. E. After that the weather was moderate all the way to port.

A telegram from Allahabad, dated 18th July, states that the plague has practically died out at Hongkong. It is likely the relief of the Shropshire Light Infantry will be cancelled. The regiment will accordingly change places with the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade at Fort William in the cold weather unless the plague reappears.

The Chinese Consul at Yokohama, says a Japanese native party, prepared to leave for home, and not having given any instructions to the Chinese residents of the port, some excitement was created among them. A few good-for-nothing fellows rushed into the China Mail on the 23rd ult., and demanded that the reserve funds of the Mail should be distributed among the poor, so that the latter might start for home, but their unreasonable request was rejected. The Chinese residents have agreed to bring the Chinese Mail to a standstill. When the strongest of the Chinese vessels made off the harbour, the Chinese sugar merchants are experiencing great trouble in disposing of their large supplies of sugar, the lower descriptions of which are said to be worth over 120,000 taels. The goods are rejected by the foreign market, and exceptionally low prices are offered by purchasers.

THE CHINA-JAPAN WAR.

The following accounts of the naval engagements and land operations in Corea are taken from the letters of the various correspondents of the N.O. Daily News:—

THE KOWSHING DISASTER.

Tientsin, July 28. In Weihaiwei on the morning of the 23rd instant there was a large Chinese fleet of ten vessels and three gunboats. Amongst them were the *Taiyuen*, *Chienyuen*, *Taiyuen*, and seven other Japanese vessels. The *Taiyuen* and *Chienyuen* were the *Taiyuen* and *Chienyuen*.

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From the accounts, published here it would seem that none of the Japanese ships received serious damage. There is evidently no disposition on either side to make anything of losses sustained. Notwithstanding this, various rumours are in circulation. One report has it that the *Musashi* has been sunk, and to-day the talk in town and at the Club is to the effect that the *Yokosuga* has been sent to the bottom. If so, it is a heavy blow, but I more than doubt it—unless indeed she has tumbled upon the *Chienyuen* and *Taiyuen*.

The fight at Seoul resulted in a serious loss of life, the Chinese lost two men killed, while the Japanese lost two men besides having several wounded. The *Chienyuen* was being tended in the Japanese Hospital. It is reported, several accounts, that the *Chienyuen* was being tended in the Japanese Hospital. It is reported, several accounts, that the *Chienyuen* was being tended in the Japanese Hospital.

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counting, killing the First Lieutenant, who was killed, and after four or five hours, and no damage to the Japanese that he had a white flag, and then the Chinese, and that, fearing that this was only a further piece of treachery, especially as the *Taiyuen* and *Chienyuen* were coming to the aid of the *Taiyuen* and *Chienyuen*, they broke out of hostilities. The ship's bow-gun was disabled, and her hull much battered; they claimed to have destroyed the bridge and counting-tower of the Japanese ship, and the *Taiyuen* and *Chienyuen* were the *Taiyuen* and *Chienyuen*.

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